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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT KVPD 1213 in Prenzlau-Torgelow

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SOURCE

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1. In late September 1952, source determined that the headquarters of of Kasernierte Volkspolizei Dienststelle (KVPD) 1213 was ordered to organize an army division within the framework of the National Army. The organization of this division is allegedly to be completed by 1 November 1952. The division is to have a wartime T/O of 18,000 to 20,000 men. The division as of late September, consisted of about 12,000 men, of whom 10,000 lived in tents, and was quartered in the area of the former German Army ammunition depot in Torgelow. (1)
2. Elements of the headquarters of the division were still stationed in Prenzlau, and infantry and motor transport units were also observed there. The elements of the KVPD 1213 quartered at the former airfield barracks and in the former Rhode Kaserne on Alsen Strasse had a ration strength of about 3,100 men on 25 September. VP Inspekteur Riedel (fnu) was the commanding officer of the KVPD, his chief of staff was VP Kommandeur Brumm (fnu), administrative officer was VP Oberrat Decke (fnu) and VP Rat Wichmann (fnu) was the ordnance officer of the unit. (2)
3. Volkspolizei from through-out Eastern Germany continuously arrived in Torgelow, because quartering facilities in Prenzlau were overcrowded. Weapons of all types also arrived in the area from the U.S.S.R. A total of 100,000 construction workers are allegedly employed in the Torgelow area in order to complete quartering facilities there as soon as possible. (3)
4. About 60 Soviet field grade officers wearing VP uniforms were assigned as instructors to headquarters units in Torgelow. A total of 300 Soviet instructors is said to be assigned to the division. (4)
5. It was planned to issue the new uniforms designed for the National Army prior to 5 October. However, source doubted whether this could be done. (5)
6. VP dependents in Prenzlau are supplied by the Handelsorganisation (trade organization) (HO) shop on "ietz Strasse and other shops.

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Comments.

- (1) These data confirm previous information furnished by numerous VP deserters, according to whom a Kasernierte Volkspolizei division is being organized in the Torgelow area. The stated wartime T/O strength of 18,000 to 20,000 men is too high. It is therefore believed that this figure refers to all the VP units quartered in the Torgelow-Eggesin area. Two divisions are probably activated in this area.
- (2) This information confirms previous reports according to which a total of 3,200 Volkspolizei were quartered in Prenzlau in early October 1952. However, the Volkspolizei quartered in the barracks installation on Alsen Strasse allegedly are an independent unit directly assigned to the Armee Gruppe Nord in Pasewalk and not to KVPD 1213. The unit comprises infantry, artillery, tank, SP gun and engineer elements and possibly is a cadre unit charged with the organization of an additional division. According to information furnished by other sources, VP Inspekteur Riedel (fnu) is commanding officer or chief of staff of Armee Gruppe Nord. However, the correctness of this information is doubted as it is believed that Riedel either is the commanding officer of the division activated by KVPD 1213 in the Torgelow area or the commander of Volkspolizei units quartered in Prenzlau.
- (3) It is believed that the detaching of personnel from various Kasernierte Volkspolizei units in Eastern Germany to Army Group North was essentially completed in early September 1952. It could not be determined, whether the arms shipments from the U.S.S.R. to Germany as observed prior to late September, continued at the same level after this date. The number of 100,000 construction workers appears to be grossly exaggerated, particularly as the VP units quartered in the Torgelow-Eggesin area are also employed on construction work.
- (4) The large number of Soviet advisors and instructors appears credible. Prior to the summer of 1952, Kasernierte Volkspolizei units were only equipped with a few samples of Soviet weapons which were adequate for limited training activities. The extensive arms shipments observed since August would permit the broadening of the scope of the training activities. The number of German instructors available with Kasernierte Volkspolizei units was inadequate for these new training missions, particularly as a high percentage of these units consisted of recruits who had only received basic infantry training and had not had army training with special weapons.
- (5) These new uniforms have been issued to some Volkspolizei units. They were worn by Kasernierte Volkspolizei units in the parade in Berlin on 7 October.

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